

For Immediate Release: *April 14, 2011*

Washington D.C. – Congressman Duncan Hunter, a member of the House Armed Services Committee and veteran of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, introduced the Guarantee Paychecks for America's Military Families Act today. The legislation ensures that, in the event the debt limit is reached or a lapse in federal appropriations, military families and civilians working in combat zones continue to receive paychecks.

"Perhaps the most unfortunate aspect of the current budget debate pertains to our nation's military and the threat that, absent the enactment of a spending bill, our troops and their families would likely go without a paycheck," said Congressman Hunter. "The mere suggestion of withholding military pay for any reason is a disservice to those who not only wear a uniform in defense of our nation, but also the families that make tremendous sacrifices on the home front.

"If the debt limit is reached or lapses in appropriations ever occur, it's important that military families have the assurance that paychecks will arrive on time and in full. These families have enough on their plate already. They should not have to deal with more hardship than they already do."

The Guarantee Paychecks for America's Military Families Act would establish the following as payment priorities if the debt limit is reached: The payment of interest on the debt to prevent a technical default; the payment of strictly uniformed military members wherever they are serving; and the payment of military and civilian defense personnel serving in combat zones. Additionally, the legislation provides the Department of Treasury the latitude to use money from the general fund to make sure the military is paid in the event of a lapse in appropriations.